

LANGHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION

June 7, 2022

A work session of the Langhorne Borough Council was held in person in Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Council President Murdock called the session to order at 7:31 p.m. and invited those present to pledge allegiance to the flag.

Present were: President Paul Murdock; Vice President Rich Mason; Councilpersons Kathleen Horwatt, Nancy Culleton, Kristen Farry, Scott Haldeman and Tony Marfia; and, Mayor Joseph Taylor.

Potential Renumbering of Route 413: Councilperson Horwatt spoke with Evan Stone at the Bucks County Planning Commission. BCPC reviews land development agreements without charge and provides other planning services by contract for hourly fees. Evan Stone recommended that Council sign a general planning services agreement with the County Commissioners, to facilitate submission of “scope of work” requests for specific services, such as reviewing the traffic quadrant study or investigating the process for renumbering Route 413. However, BCPC has little involvement with traffic studies. Solicitor Porter will look over the general planning services agreement before the June Council meeting.

Most Council members expressed support for attempting to renumber Route 413 to follow I-295 between the Newtown Bypass and US 1. Councilperson Haldeman objected, saying it would be a waste of time and resources since it would have little effect on traffic when GPS systems send people the fastest way regardless of route number. President Murdock noted that Bellevue Avenue is now Alt 413 and that we might be able to get it back from the State if 413 is renumbered.

Retrofitting the Retention Basin: If the Borough retrofits the basin behind the Methodist Church, the Borough can receive MS4 sediment reduction credits. Vice President Mason wants to explore the possibility of a contract with PennDOT to partially fund the retrofit and wants to invite Robert Maidan of PennDOT’s vendor Working Lands to come out and do a free estimate. The basin is 48,000 square feet and yields 25,000 lbs./year of sediment; as the Borough only needs to achieve a 9,000 lbs./year reduction, the excess credit of 16,000 lbs. could be sold, possibly to PennDOT, who originally built the basin. The Borough does MS4 mitigation work that larger municipalities pay their engineers to do. The MS4 Report must reflect that the Borough reviewed its current regulations, and the minutes must reflect that the Borough completed that review by June 30. The report should note that a basin has been filled in by a Country Club Lane homeowner. As the basin is located in Middletown Township, it is not the Borough’s responsibility. Country Club Lane is not a dedicated borough street.

Potential Sale of BCWSA: Aqua, a private company, has made an offer to purchase BCWSA from the County. The sale would bring welcome cash into the County but could result in rate hikes for customers. Borough Manager Paul Leonard was the manager of Upper Dublin Township when it sold its system to Aqua and can document the changes and rate increases that resulted. Aqua is a well-run system but very expensive. Council would like to consider a resolution to the County Commissioners opposing the sale. Manager Leonard advised that the resolution would be most effective if it included specific numbers.

Discussion with New Borough Manager: Council enthusiastically welcomed new Borough Manager Paul Leonard. He will be in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays but will appreciate some flexibility. He

has already had positive meetings with the Police Chief and Solicitor. He loves the diversity of housing and demographics in the Borough and is eager to get to know it better. He sees reinvestment as one of our biggest challenges and notes that RC3 events will be triggering. He is an experienced firefighter and has put in an application with our volunteer fire company.

Council asked the Manager to address the following priorities as soon as possible:

- Hire a part-time public works person (preferably for evening hours).
- Hire a borough clerk/secretary.
- Review our application for insurance renewal, with consideration of a sexual abuse coverage rider.
- Review and update legal provisions of the ARPA Report.
- Work with the Police Chief to address non-working streetlights.

In addition, Council members asked that before his time with us is over, Manager Leonard provide us with observations and recommendations on best practices overall, and specifically on the organization and accessibility of our information about ordinances and zoning. He noted that it is his practice to be fastidious about records retention.

Manager Leonard would like to review the Borough's financials.

Two requests have been received for zoning hearings. One is for an addition to a residence on Country Club Lane and the other is an application for variances on the property to be sold to Toll Brothers by Woods Services. Manager Leonard would like to communicate with CKS Engineers, Toll Brothers, and Solicitor Porter before the hearing is scheduled. He has already spoken to CKS Engineers about potential concerns downstream of the proposed development.

CKS Engineers is looking at drainage issues at Richardson and Hulmeville.

Roads in the Borough, some of which are owned by the state, are in poor condition. PennDOT has said for two years that it will repave Routes 413 and 213 but has not done so. Its schedule for this year is already set in stone.

President Murdock adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Culleton

Councilperson/Interim Secretary